AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 6, line 7, with the following amended paragraph:

The interconnection system could be provisioned with the access-control logic and could then apply it in practice as attempted communications occur. Alternatively, an entity external to the interconnection system (such as a session manager, soft switch, etc.) could be programmed with the access-control logic and could provision the interconnection system on demand. For instance, if the interconnection system signals up to the external entity in response to an attempted communication, the external entity could responsively send the access-control logic to the interconnection system, to be applied. The entity external to the interconnection system may be communicatively linked with the interconnection system.

Please add the following new paragraph after the paragraph that ends on page 9, line 19:

The processing nodes may be interconnected by the interconnection system. The interconnection system may detect an attempted inter-node communication and block the attempted inter-node communication. The interconnection system may be communicatively linked with an entity external to the interconnection system (e.g., a session manager or a soft switch). This external entity may include access-control logic (e.g., logic that indicates allowed inter-node communication between application components).

- 2 -